

Once Upon a Time

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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The Tree of Silver . . .
inside on page 12.

ALICE in WONDERLAND



1. Alice and the queer-looking party of animals and birds were at last out of the pool and on dry land. They were all dripping wet, cross and uncomfortable. "Sit down, all of you," said the Mouse. "Listen to me and I'll soon make you dry. Are you all ready now?"



2. The Mouse put on an important air. "Silence all round, if you please—this is the driest thing I know," he said. And he proceeded to tell them about history, which is a very dry subject indeed, but it did not seem to dry them at all.



3. "We're still as wet as ever," said the Dodo, as it rose to its feet. "The best thing to get us dry would be a Caucus race." "What's that?" asked Alice.



4. "Why, the best way to explain it is to do it," said the Dodo. So a circle was marked out and without so much as a "One, two, three and away," they all began running round and round and in half an hour they were dry again.



5. "The race is over," the Dodo suddenly called out. So they all stopped and crowded round, asking, "But who has won?" "Everybody has won and all must have prizes," said the Dodo.



6. The whole party crowded round Alice, calling out, "Prizes! Prizes!" Alice put her hand in her pocket and pulled out a bag of tiny minty sweets. These she handed out and there was exactly one each for them.



7. "She must have a prize for herself, you know," the Mouse said. "Of course she must," agreed the Dodo very seriously. "What else have you got in your pocket?" "Only a thimble," Alice replied.

8. "Hand it over," said the Dodo. Then they all crowded round Alice, while the Dodo very solemnly presented her with her own thimble. Alice thought it absurd as they clapped and cheered.



9. Happier now, she began to tell the creatures all about herself. "I wish I could show you the pet I have at home," she said. "She's very sweet and her name is Dinah." "Who is Dinah?" asked the Lory and Alice replied, "She's my cat."



10. Alice was always ready to talk about her pet cat, but just the mention of it caused a sensation in the party. All the creatures gave a gasp of horror and hurried away at once. So Alice was left all alone. "I wish I hadn't mentioned Dinah," she sighed.



11. Here Alice began to cry again, but then she heard a little pattering of footsteps and looked up eagerly, half hoping that the friendly Mouse had changed its mind and was coming back to talk to her. But it was the White Rabbit looking for the gloves it had lost. "Hello," said Alice.

More fun with Alice and the White Rabbit next week.



HAZEL NUTS

Hazel-nut trees grow in most European countries, and those that are grown in England are found chiefly in Kent. One variety of hazel is the filbert nut, and this is about the only kind to be picked and sold. Hazel-nuts growing on the tree lie in leafy cups in clusters of two, three or four. They are a light brown shade and from them we get the colour term "hazel". Light brown eyes are often called hazel-coloured.



Here are our Allsorts pages, in which we show you all sorts of different things. **THIS WEEK:**

SWEET CHESTNUTS

Although chestnut trees grow in England, we have to depend on chestnuts imported from the warm countries of Europe. There are about five species and they grow in Europe, North Africa, Asia, and in the cooler regions of America. The female flowers and the male catkins grow together in a little cup. As this cup becomes larger, a spiny covering splits and the ripe nuts fall to the ground. Chestnuts are very sweet and in winter, men selling roast chestnuts that have been cooked over charcoal fires are a common sight.



All Sorts of Nuts



WALNUTS

The walnut tree is useful for two things. It gives us walnut wood which is greatly used in furniture making, and walnuts, a delicious nut that is eaten in many countries. They first grew on the hillsides of Persia and Asia Minor, and you may be interested to know that Oriental princes would send walnuts as a gift to rulers of other lands where walnuts didn't grow. While growing, they are covered in a round, smooth husk on the end of a twig. But when they are ripe, this husk comes off and uncovers a hard wrinkly surface. It is easy to recognise a common walnut tree, because the twigs have a soft centre of pith which is divided into two chambers.

ALMONDS

Apart from producing a delicious nut, the almond tree has beautiful blossom. There are two different types of almond—bitter and sweet. The tree bearing the bitter almond has white blossom, and the tree bearing sweet almonds has pink blossom. Bitter almonds are used in the making of flavouring and various drugs used in medicine. Sweet almonds, the kind that are so pleasant to eat, are divided into two kinds, hard-shelled and soft-shelled. A long variety of almond comes from Malaga, and a broad almond comes from Valencia. Both these towns are in Spain. Other countries that grow almonds are Western Asia and California.



BRER RABBIT

This week: Brer Fox sees his "brother".

BRER FOX was hopping mad, and the reason he was hopping mad was because he had been tricked so many times by that crafty Brer Rabbit and his friend, Brer Terrapin. "If only I could catch them, I'd teach them a lesson they would never forget," he said to himself, as he rocked himself back and forward in his rocking chair on his veranda one evening.

He remembered the time when he had caught Brer Terrapin and plunged him into the river, and as soon as he let go of Brer Terrapin's tail, he had gone right to the mud at the bottom where Brer Fox couldn't reach him.

That was just what Brer Terrapin had wanted, of course, for he was at home in the water, and could easily keep out of Brer Fox's way, but Brer Fox wasn't so pleased, for he had realised that Brer Terrapin had escaped him.

This story is about what happened

after Brer Terrapin's ducking.

Brer Fox sat on the edge of the river and thought how he could catch Brer Terrapin again. And as he sat there, he heard a bubbly kind of "Doom-ker-ker-koom-ker" which was really Terrapin talk, under the water. It was Brer Terrapin, talking to him in bubbles from the bottom of the river and it made Brer Fox feel madder than ever.

It was getting quite late and Brer Bullfrog, who always began to sing and chat in the evening, woke up and heard all the noise and he began to make Bullfrog talk, too.

"Ker-um-dum-dum," grunted Brer Bullfrog. "Ker-um-dum-dum."

Soon, another frog joined in. "Galumph," he said in a deep voice. "Galumph."

Now Brer Fox was sure they were all laughing at him and he wanted more than ever to catch Brer Terrapin and give

him what he deserved.

There was a little splash! and Brer Fox looked up hopefully, but it was not Brer Terrapin, only Brer Bullfrog, who jumped out of the river and sat on the bank, looking very grumpy.

"All this noise and animals splashing and yelling in the water makes it hard for a Bullfrog to sleep," he grunted.

Brer Fox sidled up to Brer Bullfrog and looked very sympathetic. "It's all the fault of that rascally terrapin," he said. "What with Brer Rabbit and Brer Terrapin doing exactly what they please, life is very difficult for all the other animals around here, don't you agree?"

Brer Bullfrog just looked at him and blinked.

"Now if you could go down and find Brer Terrapin and bring him up here to me, I would see that you're not disturbed any more at all, Brer Bullfrog," said Brer Fox.

Brer Bullfrog dived down under the water again and there was a lot of splashing and lots of bubbly sounds coming up out of the water. Brer Fox sat on the river bank and waited.

After some time, there was another splashy sound and Brer Bullfrog's head appeared above the water.

"Brer Terrapin is talking to his relative, Brer Mud Turtle," said Brer Bullfrog. "You won't get him up to the surface yet, Brer Fox. But if you wait until it gets really dark, you may be able to surprise Brer Terrapin as he comes out of the river to go back home again."

By this time, Brer Fox was fairly seething with rage and he settled down on the river bank, prepared to wait all night if there was a chance of catching Brer Terrapin by surprise as he came out of the river.

Brer Terrapin, however, was not nearly so foolish as that. He had stopped for a chat with Brer Bullfrog and the other frogs then off he paddled, up the river, where he saw Brer Rabbit sitting on the river bank and stopped for a chat with him, too.

Brer Rabbit thought it very funny that Brer Fox should be tricked by Brer Terrapin and praised his friend for thinking of such a clever idea.

By and by, that rabbit came hopping along, lickety-split, on the other side of the river and he made out that he was very surprised to see Brer Fox sitting there.

"What are you doing there, Brer Fox?" he asked.

"Why, just waiting for the fish to rise," replied Brer Fox. "Come and join me Brer Rabbit. You can take some fine fish home with you."

Brer Rabbit shook his head. He felt safe on the other side of the river from Brer Fox, but he didn't fancy going across to join him.

"Time I was getting home, Brer Fox," he called back. "And I advise you to do the same. Why you never know who might be around after dark."

"Oh, that's all right, Brer Rabbit, I can look after myself," said Brer Fox, gritting his teeth with rage because he couldn't get at either Brer Rabbit, or Brer Terrapin.

"Well, don't say I didn't warn you," grinned Brer Rabbit, going off home.

Just then, one of the frogs piped up, "Wade in, wade in."

Another answered him, from just below where Brer Fox was sitting, "There-you'll-find-your-brother."

Brer Fox pricked up his ears and then he stared at the river and he could hardly believe his eyes. There was another fox, looking at him from out of the water.

"There'll-you'll-find-your-brother," called the frog, as frogs do.

Brer Fox leaned forward and the other fox seemed to lean forward also, as if to greet him.

Brer Fox got up and the other fox got up too.

"Who are you?" asked Brer Fox and at the very same time, the other fox opened his mouth and said something, too.

Then Brer Fox leaned right over and reached out to shake hands with that other fox, but before you could say "Brer Terrapin," he had overbalanced and landed with a mighty splash! right in the river.

What a shock Brer Fox got. The water was cold and the current caught him and carried him, whirling round and round down the river, until he felt quite giddy. At last, he managed to reach the bank and scramble out, soaking wet and with his teeth chattering.

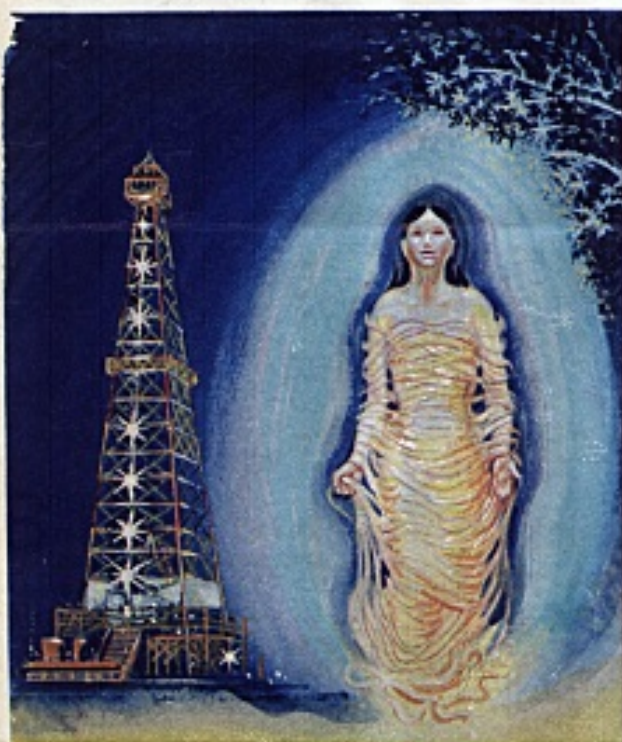
There was never a sign of that friendly fox he had seen looking at him from the river and what's more, the chattering and laughing and bubbling noises of all the frogs seemed to follow him all the way home.



Well, Fancy That!



In the Spring, the wild reindeer of Siberia and Finland move away from their winter home. They migrate to find food and to avoid the mosquitoes which hatch out when the icy rivers melt. These small insects torment the animals, but the hills where the reindeer go, are free of them.



In 1938, a Colonel Dickson dreamt of a beautiful young woman rising from a tomb beside a tree in the desert. This puzzled the Colonel and he described his dream to a Bedouin who explained it to him. He also said that he should dig for oil at the spot where he had seen the young woman. But at the time, no one would listen. Finally, at a meeting in London, the diggers were told to drill for oil, and there, beside the tree, they found enough oil to fill four thousand barrels a day. This is the site of the Kuwait Oil Company.



A Hippopotamus is a very useful animal because it clears water channels of twigs and vegetation, making it easier for the many kinds of fish in the river to live and breed.



This is a Memory Test. When you have read the story, turn to page 16 and try to answer the questions about it.

Robinson Crusoe

The exciting adventures of Robinson Crusoe have been read by many children. It is the story of a man who is shipwrecked on an island, hundreds of miles from anywhere. His adventures on the island are amazing for he has to fight against many things—for example, the wild tropical storms, the animals of the jungle, and the lack of food. Luckily, he meets a native of the island whom he calls Man Friday and he helps Robinson Crusoe to stay alive.

However unreal this tale may seem to you, it was, in fact, based on a true story of a Scottish sailor, named Alexander Selkirk.

Born in Largs, Scotland, in 1676, Selkirk was later appointed to one of the ships in a British expedition to the South Seas. During the voyage he quarrelled with his captain and asked to be put ashore. The nearest piece of land was Juan Fernandez island in the Pacific Ocean.

On this island, which is 400 miles away from the coast of Chile, Alexander Selkirk stayed for four years.

In 1709, a ship under the command of Captain Woodes Rogers, came to rescue him. Also on board was an Englishman named Sir William Dampier. He was an adventure-loving fellow and had

been, four years ago, on the same ship as Alexander Selkirk. It seems likely, therefore, that remembering where his friend had been stranded, he had asked the captain to find him.

The adventures that Selkirk had while living on the island were incredible, and when the writer Daniel Defoe heard about them it gave him an idea for a book.

In 1719, the book was published. It was called "The Life and Strange Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe," and the book quickly became a best seller, remaining one ever since. There has also been a film based on the book, and many pantomimes.



Great Rivers of the World

THE GANGES

This great river, 1500 miles long, begins in an ice-cave near Tibet and ends in the sea in the Bay of Bengal. It is the most important river in the continent of India.



The Ganges is the sacred river of Hindus and it passes through the holy city of Benares. Thousands of Hindus make long journeys to the river at Benares and bathe in the water from a flight of steps called a ghat. Often, they take back a small bottle of water from the river to their distant homes.

Along the banks of the River Ganges fine crops of rice, wheat, cotton, jute and spices grow in the rich soil. The jute plant is used in the making of rope, carpets and cloth and the picture above shows how the tall stems are cut down. Here, more jute is grown than anywhere else in the world. Many people live beside the Ganges and get a living by fishing and acting as carriers of goods, mostly jute. The River Ganges is loved by all Indians, who could not do without it and call it "Mother Gunga"



If you were able to take a trip along the length of the River Ganges, from its source to its mouth, you would see some very interesting creatures on your journey. In the snow-capped Himalayan Mountains, where the great river is just a narrow stream, you would see the Red Panda and the beautiful Kaiser-I-Hind Butterfly.



Farther down, in the warmer stretches of the river, you would come across the fierce Tiger, which likes to live and hunt near a stretch of water. Unlike most other members of the cat family, the tiger often enjoys a swim. The other animal shown in the picture on the left is a Crab-eating Mongoose.



In its wild state, the Indian Buffalo can be found near the shallow parts of the Ganges. It is easy to tame and can be trained to pull carts and ploughs. This one is watching a fish making a long leap out of the water. It is found towards the mouth of the river and is called a Striped Flying-Barb.

The Tree of Silver



1. Hans was a boy who loved nothing better than to sleep. He went to bed before even the sun had set, and only got up when it was high in the sky. "Just think," said his mother, "that boy Hans will never know what night-time looks like, if he always sleeps when it is dark."



2. She said this to Hans himself so many times that at last he decided to stay awake to see what the night-time looked like. He waited until the sun had set, then ran to his window and looked out. And there, just outside his room, was a tree with leaves of purest silver.



3. Astonished and delighted he stretched out his hands to touch them. Yes, they were real. Eagerly he pulled off a handful and stuffed them under his pillow, and went happily to sleep thinking of how proudly he would display his treasure to his mother next morning.



4. But when he pulled the leaves from under his pillow they were just ordinary green. Hans was very disappointed. "It must be an enchanted tree," he thought, "and it only becomes silver at night." He decided to stay up the next night just to make sure he hadn't been dreaming.



5. Well, the next night there were the leaves again, all gleaming silvery bright. Hans stretched out to pick some more, but he leaned out too far, over-balanced and fell into a tree. "Help, help!" he cried. His mother, hearing the cry, came running from the house and helped him down.



6. Hans told his mother the whole story, and she laughed, "Oh, Hans," she said, "what you saw was nothing but the moonlight shining on those leaves. Moonlight makes everything look silver. Just come and see." And she took him by the hand and led him further into the garden.



7. And now Hans looked about him and saw how everything gleamed softly in the pale silver light of the moon—the trees, flowers, bushes and small birds, the tall grass and the water in the fish pond. "Why," he cried in wonder, "the whole world has turned to silver. How lovely it is."



8. And ever after that, though he still went to bed early, he would lie awake until the moon had risen and sent her silvery beams down to the dark earth. Then "Goodnight, Moon," he would murmur sleepily, and drift off to sleep while the silver leaves rustled gently outside his window.



Beautiful Paintings

Many artists have included children in their paintings. E. Murillo, who painted this week's Beautiful Painting, has made them the subject of his picture. It is called "Beggars Playing Dice" and shows three youngsters,

their clothes in rags, enjoying themselves. Two are absorbed in a game of dice, and the third is eating a slice of bread. A simple subject, but one that makes a delightful painting.

The Canary Islands



Take a boat trip around the beautiful Canary Islands, starting from Las Palmas, to Arrecife, to Tenerife, to Palma, to San Sebastian, to Valverde, and back to Las Palmas, without crossing any lines of the maze.



The Canary Islands belong to Spain (the Spanish flag is shown to left) and grow bananas. To draw one of these delicious fruits, shade in the areas marked with a dot in the puzzle by the side of this copy.





The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

The flight of the flying-machine.

STEPHANIE'S boy-friend, Nigel, was building an aeroplane. He was building it in a barn near Winifred's home and Winifred and Bertie were thrilled because it meant they could help. At last it was nearly finished and Stephanie began to feel rather proud of the grand machine they had made.

"I'm sure nobody else has an aeroplane like this one," she squeaked excitedly.

When they had put the finishing touches to it and checked that the wheels and the propeller had been properly fitted, they painted it a nice, bright colour. "Then people will be able to see you flying through the sky," said Winifred, splashing lots of paint on it with her paint-brush.

"If it's fine next week-end, we'll try our new aeroplane out," said Nigel, and Stephanie agreed.

"The best thing is to take the aeroplane down to the sea," said Bertie. "It's not very far. Then you can have a good run along the downs and by the time you reach the edge of the cliffs, you'll have got plenty of speed and away you'll fly, right over the sea."

This seemed a very good idea to Nigel. Stephanie, however, wasn't thinking of the problem of launching their aeroplane into the air. She was wondering what to wear to go flying.

All that week, Stephanie puzzled over the problem, and she got quite dizzy about all the different places they might land and what clothes would be suitable. In the end, she decided to wear some smart Summer clothes, with a coat in case it was chilly and a scarf around her hat in case it was breezy up in the sky.

The week-end promised to be fine and

sunny, just right for an aeroplane trip and Stephanie was just as excited as Nigel when they reached Winifred's cottage, although she pretended to be a little bit superior about it all.

They got their aeroplane out of the big barn. It looked even nicer in the bright sunshine. Then they towed it to the sea, which was not far from Winifred's home. They chose a stretch of ground which was nice and level, but sloped gently down towards the sea and then Nigel and Stephanie climbed carefully into their aeroplane, Nigel sitting in the front and Stephanie at the back. There was just room for them. Winifred and Bertie pushed hard and then ran beside them down the slope.

When they reached the edge of the cliff a gust of wind caught them and carried them upwards and out over the sea. Looking down, Stephanie saw Winifred and Bertie waving goodbye to them from below. "Ooh, we're flying," she squeaked.

It was marvellous, but the trouble was that the upwards feeling didn't last for very long. Quite quickly the wind dropped and then Stephanie had the horrid feeling in the pit of her stomach that they were going down instead of up. Looking over the side, she could see that she was right.

"Oh, dear, there's no wind. We're falling. Sit tight, Stephanie," cried Nigel.

They landed with a splash on the water and the little wooden aeroplane floated gently up and down. "Oh, dear. If I'd known we were going to land in the sea, I'd have worn a bathing suit," said Stephanie, rather crossly. "I hope we shan't be here long."

Nigel hoped so too, for he wasn't sure

how long his aeroplane would float.

Just then Stephanie noticed a motor-boat coming towards them. They had been spotted from the shore and the motor-boat was coming to rescue them.

In no time at all, the boat came alongside the aeroplane and a man helped Nigel and Stephanie aboard.

Bertie and Winifred were waiting on the shore to meet them as they swept up to the jetty. "Well, you flew, even if it was only a short distance," said Winifred.

"Never mind. We can try again. We might make a bigger and better one next time that will fly a long way," said Bertie, encouragingly.

But Nigel had caught the look on Stephanie's face, and he said quickly, before she could open her mouth, "Let's go back to your cottage for tea, Winifred."

Everybody thought that it was a good idea, so they all went back again to Winifred's cottage and they were soon so full of delicious cake that they quite forgot to feel unhappy.

Enjoy another jolly story of the mice next week.

Here are some questions about the story "Robinson Crusoe" on page 9. How many can you answer before turning back to check them?

1. What was the name of the island where Selkirk lived for four years?
2. During which year was he rescued?
3. Who wrote a book based on Selkirk's adventures?



Mendoza

The White Dove



1. A rich merchant once bought his lovely daughter Belinda a beautiful white dove for her birthday. Belinda loved the bird more than all her other presents and spent hours in the garden with it, thrilled by the way it flew around so gracefully. Then one day the dove decided to stretch its wings a little more and soared up, up into the sky.



2. From the sky the white dove could see villages, towns, cottages and farms, river and forests—and the most exciting of all, a large Palace. Inside, Prince Roland had just asked the young Duchess Sara to marry him and she had agreed. He was giving her a miniature portrait of himself, for that was the custom of the country.



3. The dove, seeing the diamond frame of the miniature sparkling in a ray of sunlight, thought how such a pretty thing would please his mistress Belinda. It swooped in, took the miniature in its beak and flew away. "Quickly, call my huntsman to shoot that dove," cried the Duchess.



4. "Would you kill such a lovely thing to get back a miniature?" asked the Prince. The Duchess turned to him angrily. "It is set with diamonds, and they are worth more to me than a white dove," she snapped. And she told her huntsman to ride off and make sure that he shot it.



5. This caused a quarrel between Prince Roland and the Duchess and while the Prince rode off in pursuit of the huntsman to stop him, the white dove returned to Belinda. She was surprised to see the miniature, sparkling with diamonds, in the bird's beak. "Oh, what a pretty thing," she said. "Where did you find it and whose is it?"



6. Then Belinda saw the Prince's face looking up at her from the miniature and she fell in love with him at once. "How handsome and brave he looks," she sighed. At that moment Duchess Sara's huntsman galloped up. "Stand aside, my lady," he said, "for I must shoot that dove, on the orders of my mistress." "No, you cannot," said Belinda.



7. Startled, the dove flew into the air and the huntsman was about to shoot his arrow when the Prince galloped up. "Stay—do not shoot!" he commanded. Since it was a King's son speaking, the huntsman obeyed very readily. And as for Belinda, she had eyes for nobody but the handsome Prince.



8. And he, as soon as he saw her, had no eyes for anyone else either. "This girl would never order a dove to be shot," he thought. Belinda handed him the miniature. "It is yours, I think, sir," she said. "Keep it," said the Prince, having decided there and then to marry her—which he did.



The WISE OLD OWL

Knows all the answers

The Wise Old Owl is here again to answer many interesting questions which you have asked.



1. Why do men talk of burying the hatchet?

"When the North American Indians wanted to make peace they would take their hatchets or tomahawks, and bury them with great ceremony in the ground. They remained there while the tribe was not fighting, but if war broke out, the tomahawks would be dug up again. So today, when people want to make peace after a quarrel, they often say, 'Let's bury the hatchet.'"



2. What was a patten?

"A patten was a form of footwear that was worn in the 15th century and remained in fashion for 200 years. The patten had a wooden sole mounted on an iron support and was made so that people would not get their feet dirty when walking in the bad streets of those days."



3. Where is the longest steel arch bridge to be found?

"In Sydney, Australia. It is called the Sydney Harbour Bridge and is 1,650 feet long. This bridge, which carries rail and road traffic, was opened in 1932, and underneath it sail many large ships to the docks which stretch for 200 miles along the waterfront."



4. What is the heaviest flying bird in the world?

"The heaviest flying bird is the mute swan, and its average weight is about 28 pounds."



5. Are some mountains older than others?

"Yes. Rounded mountains have been worn by bad weather. The sharp-pointed ones are younger, having a rugged surface."